

WRESTLING FORUM

OCTOBER 30, 1988

VOLUME III

ISSUE 20

FROM THE HOME OF THE 9-0 KNOXVILLE BLUE BULLETS...

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IS IT THAT TIME...AREADY?!?!

It seems like we just put out an issue just a few days ago. And in reality, we did. Last issue was late. Major league late (and speaking of the major leagues, how bout them Dodgers!). I'm sorry.

Most people are blaming convention for the lateness of last issue, but it had very little to do with it. The bulletin was finished on the 17th and ready to print. I took the originals to the "master maker" or "plate maker" and it wouldn't work. In fact, there were these pretty blue flames shooting out of the side of it. We didn't get to call the fire department, but I did empty a fire extinguisher on to it. That was Monday night after work. Tuesday morning, I went to make the masters for the press on our old reliable photocopier but it too decided to go on strike. Several phone calls later, I located a place that would make plates for the press from our originals. The only problem was that they weren't in a real hurry to get the job done and he finally finished up a ten minute job late Tuesday night. Mary picked up the plates while I was at work and Tuesday night we attempted to run the bulletin on the press. The guy who made the plates was obviously upset that we didn't use him to print the entire bulletin (he wanted about \$1.00 per finished copy) so he didn't do a very good job on the masters. It looked like you were reading the finished copy through screen wire. Wednesday morning I phoned the copier repair place and they had even better news for me. The repair man couldn't get there until late in the week, most likely Monday. I described the problem to him, he told me what was wrong and that he had the part instock if (he said laughing) "You think you can put it in." We did and the bulletin was printed Wednesday the 19th and mailed on Thursday the 20th, later than ever before. I will make every attempt possible to see that that doesn't happen again with one possible exception...with the baby due on February 15th...that one may be a few days late (and gee, that's our third anniversary issue too).

Because of the bulletin coming out so late, the five or so days we usually have between finishing up one and starting the next managed to disappear. That makes me respect a certain fellow who does this weekly. It also makes me question his mental state.

Anyway, this thing called Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th and 30th of each month and usually mailed the following day. Cost is \$1.50 per issue and you may subscribe for any amount up to six months worth.

Next issue we begin our balloting for the year end awards. There will be some new categories this time around and this is your last chance to suggest any more new ones. Balloting will begin when you receive next issue and run until December 30. Be thinking of your choices for various categories because we want as many responses as possible this year. Last year we ended up with 94 entries and this year we'd like to go over the 150 mark.

Things are almost back to normal after convention and should completely return to normal by the middle of next month. Thanks to all who attended once again, and also for all the nice cards, letters and phone calls. Next issue of the UAWF Scrapbook should be ready for mailing by the middle of next month but we still need any pictures you took in Memphis.

That's about it for the opening bell page...lots going on in the world of wrestling so let's get right to the action by checking in first with the Wrestling Barometer and Jeff Siegel...

THE WRESTLING BAROMETER

October 1988

by Jeff Siegel

Welcome to the October edition of the Wrestling Barometer, "Wrestling Forum's" exclusive monthly look at what's hot and what's not in the world of professional wrestling!

Admittedly, this month's barometer was strongly influenced by the attendees of the 1st annual UAWF convention in Memphis -- as many folks opted to deliver their October ballots inperson. Add to that the fact that many convention goers found plenty of "hot" things about the get together and you can understand how things turned out the way they did.

As usual, we begin with a quick review of the procedure that's used for tallying Barometer entries: 5 points is awarded for a first place vote, 3 points for a second, 1 point for a third and $\frac{1}{2}$ a point for every item that is included on a voter's list from 4th place on. Then, a minimum point total is arbitrarily decided upon for inclusion in this column. The minimum point total allows us to focus on the month's major trends. Now, on to the October results:

WHAT'S HOT

(needed to qualify - 15 points)†

1. UAWF Convention (54 points)
2. Varsity Club ongoing break up skit (38 $\frac{1}{2}$)
3. Road Warriors turn (18 points)

WHAT'S NOT

(needed to qualify - 15 points)

1. One Man Gang transformation/Akeem skit (42 points)
2. Ivan Koloff's turn (28 $\frac{1}{2}$)
3. Gilbert leaving Continental (27)
4. Tully and Arn's reception in the WWF (19)
5. Nate the Rat (17)

NOTES: Get the feeling there's not much hot going on in professional wrestling? So does the Barometer...Also, note no mention of Dusty Rhodes for almost three months running now. What's going on here?...As indicated earlier, the UAWF Convention's victory is no real surprise, though it certainly speaks very well for the group's premier gathering. In fact, no less than eight convention related items also received hot votes though none garnered enough to qualify by themselves...the Varsity Club's skit continues to do extremely well. We haven't seen an angle remain as hot for some time (Million Dollar Man skits)...Conversely, the luke warm showing of the Roadies' turn indicates that the jury is still out on this one...silliness and poor taste combined to earn the Akeem skit the top spot on the down side. It will be a miracle if this one ever gets over...Nate the Rat was one of those "location qualifiers"...you had to be there to understand it... and I would be remiss if I didn't mention that Correspondent of the Year Ron Lemieux narrowly missed qualifying on the upside (for his stellar reporting) with 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ points and he didn't even vote for himself.

The deadline for November ballots is November 22. As always, entries and related items should be sent to:

JEFF SIEGEL

P. O. BOX 5461

EVANSTON, IL 60204

10/16 PROVIDENCE, RI (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux...KING OF THE RING TOURNAMENT (4th Annual)...FIRST ROUND...Patera beat Volkoff...DiBiase over Beefcake...Bad News-Hercules DCOR...Savage downed Virgil...Ron Bass beat Barbarian via DQ...Shawn Michaels pinned Danny Davis...Taylor over Janetty...Iron Mike upset Zhukov...SECOND ROUND...Bass pinned Michaels...DiBiase pinned Patera...Taylor beat Iron Mike...Savage gets a bye...THIRD ROUND...Savage pinned Taylor...DiBiase paid off Bass to fake an injury and win...DiBiase beat Savage by COR NOTES: Attendance: 6700... The buyout was entertaining and actually better than any of the matches...Also, Hacksaw Duggan beat Dino Bravo in a flag match somewhere in the middle of the first round...DiBiase, Savage and Virgil were all three going at it in the final match at the end, but Ted rolled back in to beat the count...Virgil was going to clobber Savage with the trophy at the end, but Hercules made the save (a little late - Virgil had to hold the trophy above his head quite a while).

10/28 KANSAS CITY (WWA-AWA) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert...Ric McCord beat Bruce Blackwell...midget match...TC Carter over Russell Sapp...Ray Stevens/Ric McCord defeated Akio Sato/Grim Reaper...Mike George DCOR Wahoo McDaniel...NOTES: Attendance 280...Ton of no shows including Dave Peterson, and Greg Gagne...Ray Stevens has gained a lot of weight...Wahoo juiced at 4:00 mark of a 10 minute brawl...program pushes several for coming in for Thanksgiving show including Iron Sheik, Sgt Slaughter, Kevin Kelly and more.

WRESTLING WITH A FUTURE

Editor's note: A couple of issues ago we printed a story entitled "A Week With the Fed", a jobber's story of how it is to break into the business and the hardships to follow. The guest writer (who of course prefers to remain anonymous) has agreed to answer questions from time to time, giving us outsiders an even clearer window into the sport we've come to love. This edition's questions come from various readers.

WHY DO YOU THINK "STAR" WRESTLERS TREAT THE "JOBBER" SO POORLY WHEN IN MOST CASES THEY THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME POSITION? (Nannette Johnson-Watertown, NY)

You almost answered the question yourself. It seems to be some sort of ritual that you treat the guys treat younger guys the way they had been treated. Ego has a lot to do with it too. A guy will get the attitude that since he has finally "made it" he doesn't have time to bother with us little guys.

I'd like to take the chance here to address another issue, if Jon will allow me the space. I heard some of the comments that wrestlers and managers made during your convention in Memphis. They said that the guys coming up hadn't paid their dues like the old timers had. According to the logic there, everyone should come up at exactly the same pace. Let's say that every wrestler would have to spend two years barely eeking out a living in some rundown independent like I started off with then, poof! They're a star. The person who made the comment should wake up and come back to reality. He's saying that talent doesn't count for anything. If someone has natural ability, he shouldn't be held back and he should be allowed to turn himself loose. Myself, I realize that I don't have the talent to make it with one of the bigger promotions yet. Luck has a lot to do with making it, so don't think that talent is the major factor. Personally, I think the person who made those comments should thank what ever God he worships that he was lucky. Otherwise he might be stuck where I am.

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE OF A MATCH IS THE ENDING DECIDED UPON? (Mike Burroughs-Toronto).

Depends. When I worked for the Fed (WWF), the Tv matches were all squashes. They told us how long the match was to go and what the finishing move would be. They told us how much offense we would be able to do. The rest of the match was pretty well ad libbed with the "star" calling everything. One of the guys I worked with didn't say a word to me during the entire match until the end. Then all he said was "Here it comes" and that was it.

In matches in the promotion I work for most often, we book the match in the dressing room prior to first match on the card. I usually work middle of the card so after we're given the finish by the booker, we'll sit around the dressing room and go over the "body" of the match. Still, most of the match is called from the inside of the ring with the heel calling most of it. We know about how long the match is supposed to go so we just fake it (pardon the pun), improvising as the match goes on.

ARE YOU EVER RECOGNIZED AS A WRESTLER IN EVERYDAY LIFE?

Hardly ever. None of my neighbors know. Every once in a while a clerk will say I look familiar. One time a fan did walk up to me and ask if I had ever wrestled and I said no. I really don't care to be recognized outside the ring and sometimes I wish I wore a mask to make sure I'm not. But with the limited area that our promotion covers (and the limited number of people we draw to our shows), I don't think (being recognized) is a major problem.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

The deal is done. Ted Turner is now officially the owner of the NWA.

According to our best sources, Turner had been running the promotion since the first part of the month and all that was holding up the sale was Turner's signature on the papers. On October 21, the deal was completed with Turner finally signing.

There are no immediate changes that might clue-in the general public that a transfer of power has taken place. Jim Crockett will remain in an advisory capacity and as figurehead president (much like Jack Tunney or Stanley Blackburn). Gary Juster, Baltimore promoter, will remain as "event coordinator" for most of the nation which basically is no change in his position. And Dusty Rhodes will remain as booker. For now.

The announcing crew, including David Crockett, will remain intact though many speculate that Jim Ross' duties will increase with some front office assignments.

Turner had all of the wrestlers sign agreements that, in effect, negated any sort of mass walk out due to free agency ala the old UWF. The agreement, in effect, keeps the wrestlers working under the same terms as they had with Crockett. It also will allow the wrestlers to renegotiate their contracts on an individual basis come January.

Other changes, of course will be ones that are noticable; new talent, new angles, etc. These will be most visable around Starcade and after the first of the year.

We told you last issue that Turner was trying to bring in Rick Steamboat for a limited engagement, possibly just a one shot. The main thing that has held this up in the past has been Dusty. As booker, he couldn't see anyone from his organization doing a job for someone like Steamboat who would be in for a one time thing. And he wasn't prepared to pay the asking fee of a major star who was asked to do a job. Besides all that, Dusty's thinking was, "Why waste an angle and a non-decision finish on somebody who's not going to stick around."

Turner, on the other hand, realizes that the amount of money spent on bringing in someone would be an investment, not an expanse. If it meant paying Steamboat \$2,000 to come out of retirement, Turner will be interested in what kind of return he can expect to see at the gate and the PPV market. In this example, if just 100 extra PPV homes were signed up, then Steamboat didn't cost them a dime.

Again, let me stress, that I've only used Steamboat as an example. They have him in mind but I've been told any thoughts of actually signing him is just a case of extremely wishful thinking. If we see a power play here though, and Steamboat is brought in, it may be the end of one Mr. Rhodes as Turner will have proved just who the boss is.

Let's get on to other things. The Road Warriors finally turned heel and don't worry if you missed the tape of it. They showed it three times on the TBS alone. I understand the syndicated show showed it as many. It was almost like watching the WWF the way they spent so much time on it. Just in case you missed it, here's what happened.

They had a match for the six man titles with the Roadies and Sting (subbing for Dusty Rhodes) against the Varsity Club. The Roadies were tagging each other, but never Sting. The live crowd had no problem picking up on this as they were chanting "We want Sting!" at different times throughout the match. The match finally broke down (Jim Ross told us so in his unimitable style) with all six men in the ring. Hawk and Animal took out Sullivan and Steiner leaving Sting and Rotundo to go at it. Sting hit Rotundo with the flying splash and then put him in the scorpion. Hawk immediately came over and pulled him off and they started arguing nose to nose. Animal then hit Sting from behind and they doubled on him. They did two moves where Hawk came off the

the top ropes on to Sting, the first one with Sting in a press slam position and the second with Sting sitting on Animal's shoulders. The second one was the Warrior clothesline and Sting sold it like he was one of the Mulkies, doing a complete 360 and landing on his knees. Lex Luger charged the ring and argued a bit with the Roadie before attending to the fallen Sting. The Roadies then attacked him as well then quickly exited the ring before all the preliminary babyfaces made the save. On a side note, we noticed when they stretchered Sting out, Rick Steiner was the one who carried the stretcher to the ring.

I think the turn was not only well done but also effective from the fans' point of view. The shock value was there and the attack on a guy who is really over is one way to get a heel turn over as well. Dusty's part was limited and that was a big part of it being so successful. The Road Warriors beating up on Sting and Luger got the Roadies over as heels, while if it had been Dusty, it might have been Dusty being the bad guy in the fans' eyes. The story behind Dusty not being there was because he was doing some charity work for Special Olympics in Texas.

On an interview after the fact, the Road Warriors reiterated the fact that they wanted to do things on their own and that Sting was just sticking his nose in. Paul Ellering blamed Dusty for working with the charity and using their money. In other words, the reasoning for their turn is supposed to be greed. The Warriors need to work on their heel interviews though, as they've been doing face interviews too long. One they get the form back, they are going to be as awesome as they once were if not more so.

A little more news on the Warriors. If things go according to plan, they will be winning the world tag belts from the Midnight Express in New Orleans tonight (10/30). This will free up the Express to feud with Paul E Dangerously and the Original Midnight Express (more on this in a minute) and the Warriors will be running against Luger and Sting. David Crockett has got to get an award for some of the asinine comments he's been making over the last few weeks. This past weekend, he uttered, "The Road Warriors...they're not so tough! Now Sting and Luger...they won this year's Crockett Cup!" Someone needs to take this idiot out behind the studio and reason with him with a 2 x 4. You're supposed to put heat on a feud...not take it off!

As for Paul E and the Original Midnight Express, they are due in on November 1, the official date of the takeover. There are several stories circulating as to how they are going to be introduced, but nothing is carved in stone. Rather than speculate (guess), the only thing I can tell you for sure is that they will indeed feud with Jim Cornette and the Express and that Cornette and his team will be the full fledged babyfaces here.

In an attempt to boost ratings for the syndicated show, they will be holding the US tag title tournament on that show exclusively. It looks like they will be running a match or two on that show over the next several weeks and the first one will be this coming weekend. The syndicated show appears to have been dropped in a few markets, locally as well. It went off here in favor of the olympic games and just never returned. No explanation was given by the station locally (at least officially) although I was told a long time ago when they cancelled a show with less than a week's notice back in August or September that the contract probably wouldn't be renewed.

One problem that Dusty and Turner may run into is "over-booking." Dusty is anxious to prove his worth as a booker and as a result, he may over-book a lot of angles in an attempt to revitalize things.. We've got the Road Warriors turn and eventual feud with Sting and Luger. We've got the Ivan Koloff turn. We've got the Express wars. We've got Bigelow's introduction and eventual return from Japan. The list goes on. Dusty isn't giving the fans enough time to digest stuff and realize the full impact that they normally would. The same thing happened

when they took over the UWF and the UWF TV shows. You'll remember they changed the format when they got TV in New York and what they did was a studio type show with clips and highlights from the UWF. The only thing was that every clip they showed was an angle or a feud and they did so many at once, many fans getting to see the show for the first time, lost interest fast as they couldn't keep up with things.

It's obvious that Dusty is fighting to keep his job and the creative juices are flowing to no end.

I'm being told from several people that should know that they are also getting ready to wind up the Varsity Club angle. It will culminate in Rick Steiner's turn and the addition of a new member who will be either Steve Williams (at this point the odd on favorite) or Ron Simmons. Those of us concerned that they may be turning Rick into a George the Animal Steele clone may be able to rest a little easier because one of the sources reminds me that Kevin Sullivan has some sort of "spell" over him and Rotundo.

Eddie Gilbert is claiming that he can help Steiner in some way and the announcers keep bringing up the fact that Sullivan is physically abusing Rick. On one interview segment, Sullivan slapped Steiner and Rick had to cover his face, turn his back to the camera and all sorts of other stuff to keep from laughing. Fortunately for those of us who are thoroughly enjoying this skit, we didn't have o contain our laughter.

One other thing. The boys were given notice that they were to move to Atlanta, site of the new offices. I don't know for sure, but I assume the Charlotte office will stay open for a while, but eventually close. Some are resisting the move, and I doubt the new regime will be that adamant about the move at first.

PENAL Points

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CONVENTION COVERAGE

I thought you and Dave both went a little overboard on your coverage of the UWF convention in Memphis. I'm sure you had a good time, but to devote six pages to the event was a little much. It read like "How I spent my Summer Vacation." I found the reports a little boring and the reason is simple. If I would have been interested in getting together with fifty other hard core fans, I would have. But I had no desire to do so, and even less now. In the future, please stick to reporting things going on in the world of wrestling, not a bunch of smarts getting together and chanting dumb things at what had to be some very ticked off wrestlers.

-NAME WITHHELD-

Texas

I enjoyed the convention issue of the Forum. It makes me wish I had been there at convention to share your experiences. You may not realize it, but the convention has been the talk of the wrestling world. Lots of the boys are saying how they would have liked to have been there too. 1989 may be better if not from just the standpoint of wrestlers attending on their own. When I first saw the amount of space that both you and Meltzer devoted to it, I was a little apprehensive, but after reading the reports, I see how important they were and if either of you would have left out one single word, it would have taken away something important. I'll see you next year!

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

CCORNETTE TURNS BABYFACE

I'm going to go on record now as saying that I don't think Jim Cornette is going to be effective as a babyface manager. Already, as a "Tween" he seems to have lost something. Instead of being able to direct his energy at any one person, he has to direct it at the entire wrestling crew of the NWA. I don't like it.

Babyface managers aren't allowed to do anything. Look at Humperdink in the WWF and now the NWA. Look at Lou Albano. Look at Ellering for the past few years. All they do is stand at ringside. The whole reason for having a manager, I thought, was to get the crowd upset at ringside. There's no way a babyface manager can do that. The only effective one would be Elizabeth, but all she has to do is just stand there and look beautiful.

I think if they turn Jim Cornette full fledged babyface, it will either mean the end of his career as we know it, or he'll quickly become as stale as the Road Warriors were until their turn. Once an attitude changes either way, it's very hard to get it back to the way it was and have it accepted.

-GARY BATES-

-New Tazwell, TN-

1984 REVISITED

I fully expect to see a replay in slow motion of the year 1984 before 1989 is half over. With Turner on the scene, there's going to be talent raids going both ways like you wouldn't believe. Finally, McMahon may have someone who's a worth opponent. Finally, we may get to see how McMahon fights when he's challenged. In 1984, the AWA was in no position to challenge him.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Philadelphia, PA-

VERNE'S WAY

You have said in the past that Verne Gagne was successful in the past by only running ONE angle every three or four months. You reasoned that that one angle was always well done and it didn't give the fans too much to concentrate on, therefore it got over. Being a lifetime AWA fan, I don't agree. Verne never had any competition. That's the reason he could get by by only running four angles a year. He knew he had his corps of fans that would pay to see whatever he gave them. In the case of the Quad Cities, he ran shows every couple of weeks and never had more than five matches per card. When they had five, somebody always worked twice. It wasn't good cards or carefully worked angles that made Gagne successful; it was no competition.

-MIKE MILLER-

-Moline, IL-

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

I hate to come on like an English professor but you had a couple of real howlers in the most recent issue. First place, though the convention guests were impressive folk, I seriously doubt they were "illuminaries," unless of course, they actually glowed. I think you meant "luminaries" or perhaps even "Illuminati" (I 've always had my suspicions about Lou Thesz).

Then there was the word you didn't want to look up: "Chronological." You won't find it, unless of course your reference work was produced by Funk, Wagnals and Huntz Hall. I'm sure what you really meant was "chronological", right?

-BILL KUNKEL-

-Woodhaven, NY-

EDITOR: Would you believe...no, I guess not. Actually, slaughtering the english language has been a pasttime of mine since I majored in English in college. Amazing what I've forgot, huh? I can only attribute these mistakes to watching Norm Crosby while I type this thing at 2am. A poor excuse is better than none, right?

MEMPHIS

I think Jerry Lawler still holds the AWA strap. I hope that Verne Gagne is as confused about where it is as we are. As you know, Jerry supposedly lost the belt to Kerry on the unification card in the Cotton Bowl. But he has continued to defend it after that time. On 10/17, just two days after losing the unification bout to Kerry, Jerry defended the belt against Tatsumi Fujinami in the Mid South Coliseum. Jerry won the match on a DQ when Akio Soto interferred. Fujinami pinned Lawler after Soto had posted him, but Eddie Marlin came to the ring and told the ref what had happened to gain the DQ finish.

Then, on a rare Sunday card (10/23) they ran the unification cage match that they hyped while we were down there on convention with Jerry vs Kerry in the cage (a few more matches and these two will be approaching the record set by Brody and Abby for most matches against each other). Jerry managed to climb out of the cage first after Jeff Jarrett, keeper of the key, slammed the cage door on Kerry when he tried to escape. Jimmy Vakiant was to have the original doorman, but due to the Sunday card, Jimmy couldn't make it.

Nothing much else has changed, talent wise or otherwise with the exception of the tag titles. They were held up following a match outside o Memphis where the RPM's and Morton-Dundee did a finish involving a double pin with one member of each team being pinned. A tournament was set up to determine the new tag champs (rather than a rematch for some reason) and it was held on the 10/23 card as well. I don't have the full results (only a newspaper clip) but it came down to Morton and Dundee against Cactus Jack and Gary Young. Young and Jack won the match and the belts. Sorry we don't have more details.

The big rumor spreading here is that Robert Fuller will be replaced as booker after Thanksgiving by Jerry Lawler. If Lawler loses the unification match on the PPV on 12/12, I expect that to happen. I'm told that Jerry is as tired of wrestling Kerry as we are seeing it. He's equally tired of Fuller run ins week after week.

Also, they supposedly have a new source for new talent, but that's all I was told. Whether that's Dundee's training school or Windy City, I don't know.

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CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH
October 1988

There are several nominees this month for Class Act of the month, most, if not all, stemming from the recent NAWF convention in Memphis. First the nominees, then the winners.

We should salute Lou Thesz for making his appearance at the event. To put himself into a position surrounded by "knowledgeable" fans had to be somewhat uncomfortable at best. His graciousness and frankness was a pleasant surprise that earns him a runner up position. The NAWF paid for his transportation to the event and had he paid his own way, there is little doubt who would have walked away with this award.

Those who did pay their own way were Debbie and Cora Combs and the Windy City crew. Their trip was twofold as they both combined business with pleasure as the ladies were interested in selling a new video they had put together and Sam DeCero and crew held some talks with the Memphis people about talent exchanges. We salute them for taking time out of their schedules to be with the fans as well.

Boyd Pierce kept fans on the edges of their seats with his stories and Al Costello was always ready to reminisce about the old days. Both were welcome additions and their participation deserves runner up status as well.

Paul E Dangerously spent a lot of time with fans, clowning and posing for pictures. Continually slipping in and out of character and basically having a ball, he went beyond the call of duty with his appearance. Again, a runner up though.

The winner of the Class Act of the Month for October without a doubt has to go to Eddie Gilbert and Missy Hyatt. They took time from their busy schedule, knowing full well that in a couple of days Eddie would probably be working full time for the NWA, to come and share time with us. Not only that, Eddie donated two ring robes to the organization asking nothing in return. When I approached him to thank him, he said, "No problem. It's nice to be able to do something like this for fans." If that isn't a class act, then I don't know what is.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH
October 1988

A few nominations from this side of the ledger as well and we'll start with the runners up.

First off is Verne Gagne and David McLane for the proposed naughty-lingerie battle royal that is scheduled to take place at Superclash. The nomination was made by a letter last issue and the reason for the runner up status is simply because the match/event hasn't taken place yet. We'll withhold comment until we see the finished product on December 13 before passing judgement. From all indications however, it looks like December may have a sure fire winner.

First runner up goes to Jarrett promotions for the part they took in helping with the 1988 convention. This nomination was made by several who attended the convention. Some conventioners learned that Eddie Marlin knew of our convention only after meeting us all at the TV studios on Saturday morning. Nothing like inter office memorandums, huh?

But this month's winner is yours truly, Jon Gallagher. What other word can describe someone who goes to a major airport to pick up a legend like Lou Thesz, armed only with the approximate time his plane is to arrive? Everything came out alright thanks to Tom Burke, Al Costello and Don Liable, but somehow I think that "dipstick" was one of the milder things Mr. Thesz was referring to me as while he waited at the airport for over an hour.

LEARNING THE ROPES a review

It had to happen. A television situation-comedy that has wrestling as a theme. This is the premise of "Learning the Ropes," a new syndicated low budget show this fall season.

Lyle Alzado plays a school teacher-father who has to supplement his income and does so by donning a mask and taking to the wrestling ring. His moonlighting is a secret, known only to his teenaged son and daughter. Wrestling scenes with NWA wrestlers are interspersed with the plots.

As far as TV shows go nowadays, I don't get to see a whole lot other than "Matlock" and wrestling so I can't really compare it to the current crop of sit coms. The character development seems to be very one dimensional in comparison to classic sit coms like the early "Happy Days" or "WKRP in Cincinnati." For example, the teenage son is girl crazy seeing himself as a modern day Cereno. Unfortunately, girls don't see him the same way.

The acting is, well, what you might expect from a low budget television show. The lines of dialogue are delivered like a high school play. The writers don't seem to be able to write lines "conversationally" for the actors, rather they write them stiff. No one talks like these people do. This may be more noticeable to wrestling fans who are used to improvised interviews rather than a rigidly scripted exchange between characters. It's sort of like the interviews they do on SNME; you can tell they were written ahead of time.

One interesting play used by the show is to show the human side of the NWA wrestlers. Again, after seeing Jimmy Garvin do interviews, watching him deliver set lines seems to lose something. His part was to play himself who had been injured by Alzado's character (a leg injury no less) and hospitalized. Alzado feels guilty and visits him in the hospital prompting an exchange of one liners between the two.

Wrestling here is treated kay fabe, i. e. on the level although there is a tendency for them to pair heels with faces off stage which should be confusing for fans.

One particularly annoying part of the show is the announcer. I don't know who he is other than he's an actor, but he is the most gawd-awful announcer in this or any other sport. He sounds a lot like Charles Nelson Reilly with a lobotomy. Somehow I have a feeling that he doesn't have a script.

The low budget sit com can't afford the name writers of network shows and the basic show fails in that regard. However, rather than pan the show completely, I'd rather wait a while and see a few more episodes. The weeks that I managed to watch may have just been off weeks. We'll see.

I guess the other thing that should be mentioned is the stunt double for Alzado under the hood in the wrestling scenes. Give the credit to Gary "The Italian Stallion" Quantnelli. In the meantime, we'll keep you posted on the show and hopefully have some ratings from across the country in the near future.

A MODERN DAY FABLE

14

Once upon a time, a manufacturer came up with an idea for a product that had never been produced before. He built several test models and then went on to patent the idea and finally to test market it. It sold well and he was able to put the item into mass production. It became a fad item and commanded a premium price. But then other manufacturers saw his idea and was able to copy the product. The catch was that they made their product just a little different, thereby passing patent and trademark laws. A little less quality was included in the manufacturing process and thus, a little less money was charged for the item. After a while, the market was flooded with imitation copies of the original and the man who originally came up with the idea went back to the drawing board in search of something new that he could start the circle all over again.

The preceding story can have any number of items inserted into it for a product from Rubik's cubes to Cabbage Patch dolls. From video recorders to a new fast food item. The end result is the same. Once somebody invents something good, the general public is quick to buy and the rest of the industry is equally quick to copy.

The same can be said of professional wrestling. Whether it be a certain angle that went over well, a gimmick, or even the use of Pay Per View outlets, everyone seems to want to get in on a good deal thus devaluing the original idea.

We can trace this back to the fifties and television exposure. At first, wrestling was a staple both on networks and local stations. The product was cheap to produce and created an interest thereby making sponsors readily available. But when wrestling got so plentiful at one point, everyone suffered. Live attendance fell off dramatically. Sponsors no longer wanted to pour money into a passing fad. The result for the most part, the death of wrestling.

Recently, another heyday was experienced when Vince McMahon and Hulk Hogan brought wrestling back to national prominence. McMahon's aggressive style of promoting combined with his philosophy of "Screw-the-other-promoters" worked and Hogan's name was made into a household word.

Other promotions soon followed suit. The AWA went from taping its television shows in TV studios and live arenas to the Showboat Pavilion in Las Vegas. The NWA felt the need to promote on a national basis and cut all ties with other smaller promotions. More emphasis was placed on merchandising at live shows. All of a sudden, McMahon's influence had been felt throughout wrestling even more than when he was conducting talent raids. Each and every thought of rival promoters was how they could to some extent copy McMahon's success.

McMahon then borrowed an idea from the rival NWA. He put together Wrestlemania I which was broadcast live via satellite to locations across the country. The NWA in previous years had broadcast to closed circuit locations in and around their home base of Charlotte, Starrcade. This was just the first step. McMahon reasoned that if he could sell the idea of going to a theatre or arena to watch TV, he could probably do even better if he offered the product in people's homes.

Pay Per View at this time was in its infancy. A few movies and even less sporting events were being offered by the PPV industry. McMahon offered his wrestling to the industry and the rest is history. McMahon, once again a pioneer, had found yet another way to line his pockets.

Then Jim Crockett decided to run a PPV special himself in November of 1987. In what became known as the Battle of Thanksgiving, the two promotions traded legal volleys with McMahon attempting to keep the NWA off the PPV network in any shape or form. His reasoning was not clear at the time, other than he wanted every penny of profit funneled his way.

But now a year later, we find another motive for McMahon's apparent greed. Go back to the first paragraph of this story to find the new idea.

In the past year since Thanksgiving, the NWA has produced three Pay Per View events, and the WWF as many. The AWA is just beginning its foray into the market. When it was McMahon by himself, he had complete control over how many specials per year would run along with the work rate of the show, the cost for the event in home, and more importantly, the pursestrings. With a monopoly over the Pay Per View market, he could use that as a tool to bargain with with potential incoming talent. concerning potential paydays.

Now, McMahon has to share the spotlight and the PPV outlets with the likes of Paul Jones, Greg Gagne, , Rocky Mountain Thunder and more. Granted, McMahon has his share of Junkyard Dogs and Baron Von Raschkes, but the idea is that those wrestlers are nowadays relegated to lower and forgettable spots on the card. His major worry is now oversaturation of the market, just as promoters in the 50's were concerned. This time, however, the stakes run in to the millions of dollars each show.

Could the poor quality of the last Titan-PPV card have been solely to send a message? Was the card deliberately bad to try and turn off future potential views of both the NWA and AWA? With Jim Crockett and Verne Gagne, the shows are vitally important because they represent the chance to become a major factor in the promotional race once again. With McMahon, however, he makes his money through two (and sometimes three) live shows per night, the publishing of his magazine, corporate sponsorship, and a ton of merchandising. This would allow him to dabble and experiment in the market while waiting out his competitors to fail.

If this is his ploy, then it may backfire. The possible sale of the NWA to Ted Turner will put the NWA on an even keel with the WWF in terms of power of exposure. They too may wait out the wars, letting McMahon burn himself out of the PPV market.

On the other hand, lousy shows by any of the groups may turn enough people off the idea of paying upwards of twenty dollars a show that the industry might take another several years to recover.

The whole point is simple. The PPV market needs to be regulated by someone, preferably a group of cable operators. By doing this, it assures that the market will not become over saturated if promotions are limited to a show or two per year. This would also assure that each promotion would do their utmost to provide an entertaining evening for the price of the program. If the PPV market is to survive and everyone is to share in the rewards, some sort of understanding of this nature much be reached. If not, a good idea, and what should have been the future of pro wrestling will go the way of the hula hoop. Wrestling will continue to survive if not as prosperous as it once was, but the real losers here will be the fans.

This article was written shortly after the AWA's announcement that they were running a pay per view special. It suddenly occurred to me that in the space of 33 days, there would be three pay per view specials available at a cost of somewhere between \$45 and \$60. Added to that fact that Christmas time is the season it's being planned and I'm sure that more than one family will face a hardship because of this. The solution was the only thing I could come up with as illogical as it sounds. Let me know your thoughts.

CONTINENTAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

I don't have a lot of news out of here but with the enlarged type and front office shennanegans, I should be able to fill the page.

By far, the commotion in the front office is more interesting than what is actually happening in the ring. New booker Bob Armstrong is being blamed for crowds dwindling across the territory by the owner David Woods. Woods is not considered by the wrestlers to have the knowledge to run a promotion. Fingers are being pointed all over the place and they all seem to end up at the same place: Woods firing Eddie, Missy and company.

The story that is most consistent is that Eddie quit after getting shorted on his paycheck. In other words, Woods made him quit. But since Woods is bragging about firing him, the blame is falling back on to him for the current state of the promotion. Had he gone in with the sob story that Eddie walked out on him, the boys still there might be more sympathetic. I hear that Woods is looking to unload the company again.

In the past, Woods has managed to sell the promotion at an inflated price, then buy it back later when it started to fold. That's how he was making his money. But now, selling the promotion when it's down may hurt him or keep him from coming back altogether.

FNN continues to air their matches and that arrangement appears to be a lot more solid than it was a few weeks ago.

Brad Armstrong is back in being introduced as Bullet's mystery partner in tag matches against DWB and Jerry Stubbs. He's not popping any big crowds and again, Daddy's taking the blame.

Current feuds seem to be the one we just mentioned along with Tom Pritchard defending his new CWF championship against the Grapppler; Ken Wayne continues to feud with Danny Davis however is also defending the belt against Davey Rich in some cities. Dutch Mantell's stay may have been a very short one as he is rumored to be departing and Lord Humongous is working Memphis as Sid Vicious.

Gear it up, boys, check the oil and fill 'er up! Let's get his hype machine into full speed or the Survivor Series won't ever get over! That could very well be the memorandum sent by Vince McMahon to his cronies this past couple of weeks. In the first week, the Richfield Coliseum in suburban Cleveland had a whopping 400 tickets sold to what looks like an annual event. That isn't really a big problem as the house can always be papered, but the thing that does have Titan worried is the fact that the Pay Per View audience may have been devastated by the awful card at superscam. Or Summerscam. Or whatever they called that last travesty.

Given just the line up for Survivors, it isn't that strong going in. They haven't set up a lot of angles or feuds for things to make a lot of sense yet, so get ready, because in the next few weeks, everything should come together. Evidently, from what I can figure out with the announced line up, this event will do more to start feuds than conclude them. Keep in mind that this is the first in a long series of steps that will set up Wrestlemania.

The first step in hyping the Thanksgiving card came this past weekend. Hulk Hogan was the guest on a Brother Love segment and was interrupted by Slick and Bossman. They filmed two versions of the angle so they could have a choice between the two. The one they used had Bossman attack Hogan with the nightstick, ending up handcuffing him to a guard rail, and beating the snot out of him. Hogan made a miraculous comeback and chased the heels back to the dressing room. Slick had sprayed something in Hogan's eyes (it was so memorable I forgot to include it earlier) which Hogan proved his immunity to after being exposed to it for a few seconds. Hogan, still handcuffed, carried the guard rail back to the dressing room with him.

What this establishes is the reason for the team captains in the main event at Survivors. Hogan, along with Savage (whose role is yet to be determined) will take on Bossman and co-captain Akeem. The rest of the team has changed several times in the past couple of weeks, but the following is what they were pushing on the latest set of tapings from Baltimore so we'll assume it's correct. The babyface side will fill out with Hillbilly Jim, Koko and Hercules. The heel side will be filled out with Red Rooster, Haku, and DiBiase.

The next match will feature Ron Bass and Honky Tonk Man as co captains with Valentine, Bad News Brown and Danny Davis filling out the team going up against co captains Ultimate Dingbat and Beefcake with Blue Blazer, Sam Houston (should be interesting as I talked to Sam before a show in Burlington and he claimed to have never heard of Owen/Blazer) and a spot yet to be filled (Muraco originally, but I'll explain this in a minute).

A tag team match will also be featured with Powers of Pain captaining one team with the Rockers, the Bulldogs, the Young Stallions, and the Hart Foundation going against Demolition (Captains) and the Conquistadors, the Bolsheviks, the Rougeaus and Tully and Arn.

Instead of a ladies match this year, it will be filled out with another men's match with Jake as captain and teammates Jim Duggan, Tito Santana, Ken Patera and Brian Blair vs Andre and Rick Rude, Curt Hennig, Dino Bravo and probably Terry Taylor.

In other news of sorts, the WWF will be cutting back on shows to two a night instead of three. This means where they run shows will have a bigger lineup of stars than in the past. The cutback is due to shrinking crowds, but that seems to have established a pattern in years past about this time of year. I have to wonder (and should have covered it in the feature this time) if the Pay Per View shows and declining attendance go hand in hand. Do people forego live events in favor of paying for a major show on TV? What do you think?

What did the fans do to deserve this? Think of the worst possible

senario you can for a match. How does Junkyard Dog and King Haku stack up? I realize JYD and just about anybody, but let's use this as an example, okay? Now, put with that match the worst possible group of announcers you can think of. Yep. Billy "Superstar" Graham certainly qualifies. No, David Crockett doesn't but let's replace him with Lord Alfred Hayes. A fair exchange, me thinks. Now add to that, say Ron Trongard. A nightmare in the making if I ever saw one. Yet, on a recent edition of Prime Time on the USA network, that's the match and the crew of announcers we got. It was BRUTAL!

There was a few good matches on that edition of Prime Time including one between the Rockers and the Rougeaus. It wasn't as good as it could have been but still it was entertaining. If you insist on a grade if fell in the B- to B range. Anyway, it had an interesting ending. One of the Rockers had one of the Rougeaus pinned. The referee was trying to push the other Rocker out of the ring when Jimmy Hart threw his megaphone in to the other Rougeau. We all expect the Rougeau to clobber the Rocker and get a screw job win. But the Rocker who was being ushered out told the ref to turn around and by golly, he did catching Rougeau red handed. He DQ'd the brothers while the one with the horn tried to look as innocent as he could with a megaphone poised above his head. Funny, and unexpected stuff.

Tully and Arn are in and being called the Brain Busters. Not much has changed as Arn is being used more or less as the "power man" and Tully the tactician. They still use the same moves like the Spinebuster and the Slingshot suplex. The only thing that has really changed thus far is their manager. They are now under the guidance of Bobby Heenan. They're going to have to replace one of the names on the Survivor

Series Line up already...Don Muraco was fired this past week and we're not sure why. It all depends on whose story you believe and both are outrageous enough that either I'll try to have more later on this issue or I'll have a complete report for you next. At any rate, the chances of him ending up in the NWA are better than 50-50 at this point.

Prime Time this past week originated from the place where Sugar Ray Leonard is doing his training for his PPV fight with Donnie LaLonde. With Titan in charge of the PPV rights, they have to hype this as well as their normal wrestling, I guess. if you thought the Summer Scam commercials went over board, this whole show as dedicated almost exclusively to the fight.

More heat in the dressing room dept...Last issue we reported a confrontation between the Bulldogs and the Rougeaus where Dynamite Kid beat up one of the brothers. That turned out to be only round one. In round two, according to most reports, the Rougeaus waited for Tommy and one held him while the other sucker punched him. The Bulldogs left immediately after that for a tour of Europe swearing revenge, but a mandate from Vince McMahon personally was sent down to both teams warning them that another confrontation of any kind would not be tolerated and both teams would be fired on the spot.

Lots of stuff going on at the latest set of TV tapings in Baltimore. They filmed a Saturday Night's Main Event scheduled for tonight (10/30) which we'll try to cover in a bit. The other things on the tape for the next three weeks of syndicated shows is even more interesting.

Looks like the Rougeaus and Rockers will be feuding. On the first hour of the taping they wrestle each other and the match ends with a double DQ. The Hart foundation came out to watch the match, but they ended up interfering when the Rougeaus tried to use the megaphone.

The Brother Love segment that will air the third hour features a quite interesting skit. We figure the air date will be 11/26. Brother Love has Jack Tunney as his guest. Bad News Brown interrupts and wants to know why he isn't considered the number one contender. Brown asks Tunney if he's on the take from Savage and asks if he's bought carn.

boats, etc, with the payoffs. Tunney, of course, denies taking payola. Brown whacks himself in the head (Wow! I could have had a v-8) and said, "Of course! You can't make me the number one contender because of certain FAVORS Elizabeth is doing for you!" Tunney grabs Brown but Brown shoves Tunney down and roughs him up. Brother Love then mocks Tunney when Brown leaves, bending over him saying "Well...MEESTER....WWF....Pre-i-beynt...you've been getting favors....from...Eliz-a-beyth?" Do I hear a nomination here?

The SME was also taped from here and since it's on tonight, I'll watch it and report. My thanks to FRED NAARISMA of Baltimore who sent along the report. Fred's reports are among the most detailed and accurate we receive here at the Forum. Thanks, Fred.

The show opened with Jake vs Rude. It was an okay match that went back and forth with both guys working pretty hard. Rude still has Chyrl painted on the front and back of his tights (which I still think is pretty darn crude, especially combined with the sexual double-entendres they did on the preceding interview slot). Finally, Jake hits Rude with the DDT and Heenan jumps up on the apron and ropes and motions for "somebody" to come in. He then goes after Jake who is pulling Rude's tights off. Andre comes lumbering down the aisle and attacks Jake and he and Heenan attend to the fallen Rude. Jake recovers and gets Damien. Heenan gets out along with Rude leaving a petrified looking Andre in the ring. Jake starts for Andre with little jerky steps and Andre looks like he's going to die of fright. Jake ends up throwing the snake at the Giant and Andre "fights" it off a little before collapsing, fainted dead away. Heenan runs in and rips open Andre's shirt and goes nuts listening for a heartbeat and pounding on his chest. Let me say this before we go any further...In addition to Fred's report, I got two others and Andre and Heenan had all three fooled at first. They did a superb job of acting and even though I knew it was a work (from reading the reports before seeing the show) I was impressed with the realism, something we don't see all that often in the WWF. Rene Goulet comes out along with Dr Pat Patterson, Dr. Arnold Skolaand and Dr. Tony Garea (which would assure at least for me that I'd postpone any heartattacks with these guys around). They revive him and Andre continues to act scared, looking for the snake. The match itself was better than average and gets a B-. The after match angle though was impressive enough for an A+. Everyone played their role extremely well.

I just watched this match a second time (or at least the skit part and can't get over how good Andre was! That look of fright on his face almost didn't look like he was acting (with me, it wouldn't have been an act, including the heart attack part).

On to the rest of the card. Next up was the Hart Foundation against Demolition. After some early give and take, they get down to the meat of the match in which Demolition work over Bret. Neidhart gets a hot tag, does a couple of lame dropkicks and all four guys end up in the ring. The Rougeaus come to ringside to watch and the Hart Foundation is working over Demolition, Mr. Fuji and Jimmy Hart (who came to ringside with Fuji to co-manage). The Rougeaus run in and while Neidhart is going after Jacques, Raymond gets the megaphone and tosses it to Smash. The ref is busy on the other side of the ring while Smash smashes the thing on Neidhart and gets the pin. Nothing special here. Grade: C+.

The return of Hogan to free TV was a match against King Haku. I'm worried about the direction things look to be going. Elizabeth accompanies Hulk to the ring and when she goes to hold the ropes for him, he shakes his head and ends up holding the ropes for her (later on the card in a dark match, Randy let Liz hold the ropes for him). I hate to think of the direction this Hogan-Liz-Savage thing may go. Then again, they did this so openly and obvious, it may be a swerve. Anyway, even before the ring entrance, Liz comes up to hulk and says, "C'mon Hulk. We've got a date...with royalty." Hogan didn't wear that stupid war bonnet, but a scarf instead. Why? because this man is officially

BALD! My dad always tells me he remembers Verne Gagne when he had hair... Now I'll be able to tell my kids I knew Hogan when he had hair. All this commentary should tell you how the match went. Typical Hoganesque. Except that Hogan did attempt a couple of bumps. Anyway, it ended after Heenan got clobbered by Haku and had to go back to the dressing room. Haku took the advantage, Hulk "hulked out" and won with the leg bomb. Afterward, Liz was helping him get cheers by cupping her hand to her ear. I tell ya...I don't like where this seems to be leading! Grade wise we'll give this one a C-.

Hopefully most people went to bed after this. The next match featured Ken Patera against Dino Bravo. This might have been a good match in 1983, but this is 1988. If you would have watched his match in fast forward, it would have still looked like slowmotion. Patera continues to deliver the most light showing punches in the biz. Bravo wins it clean after a reverse atomic drop and a side slam. Grade: F.

Bossman then squashed Jim Powers. Powers got to do a few offensive maneuvers including a couple of nice dropkicks. The match was nothing more than to get Bossman over to the national audience (figuring that they had a few new viewers who had tuned in expecting to see Saturday Night Live) and it served its purpose. Squash matches are hard to grade, but this was an average on so that's the reasoning behind the C grade. After the match, Bossman did the handcuff routine.

All in all, the first SNME of the season wasn't bad. Tghere's been better, there's been worse.

In other news and happenings...Warlord has been missing some bookings as of late. We hear two different stories but both have to do with ailing body parts (bad back and pinched nerve), so he's taking some time off to recover. No big deal as their push (Warlord and Barbarian) seems to have disappeared as fast as it came. Baron Von Raschke is still hanging around for who knows what reason.

George Steele's health problems continue. There are conflicting reports as to the seriousness of it all (including the fact that he has had colon surgery). The best source I have says that it is indeed a colon problem, but no surgery has been performed as of yet and that he hopes to make a full recovery and return to wrestling on a part time basis. Although I can do without him in the ring, I do wish him the best of luck and health.

Harley Race was supposed to be making a comeback, but his dates were all cancelled. He's not ready yet, nor do I think he ever will be. I'm told though that the comeback was Harley's idea, not Vince's.

One thing I like about my job is that I get to talk with a lot of fans who are not "inside fans." Most of these fans seem to think the same way we do in regards to Akeem. They didn't understand the angle or do they care. They just think it's stupid. Talking with these types of fans help me a lot in figuring out what is and what isn't going over. If they don't buy it, it's a good chance that inside fans won't either.

Bad News Brown was gone from the scene for a short while while he allegedly had to study for a test of some sort. I understand that he passed the test the second time around.

After telling a caller about the Bad New Brown-Jack Tunney skit, it makes some sense. That's scheduled to air the weekend after Thanksgiving which would almost mean that something happens at Survivors to question Liz's moral upbringing. Between her taking off her skirt at Scam and now being accused of giving certain favors, it would seem that they are really trying to make her into a sleeze ball of some sort. Would you suppose Linda McMahon had anything to do with that notion?

WORLD CLASS

Title title, who's got the title? Who knows? The title situation here has got to be the most confusing in wrestling today, yesterday, and certainly anytime in the future.

Let's look at the tag titles. Michael Hayes and Steve Cox won the titles from the Samoan Swat Team on the Cotton Bowl card, then dropped the titles back just two days later in Fort Worth. These tag titles have been changing every time these two teams meet, it seems.

As for the AWA belt and the World Class belt, this was covered in the Memphis report and as far as I know, that's the way it stands. Except maybe in Texas. Don't you love organization?

The big news from here is that Jerry Jarrett has reportedly bought the 30% of the promotion that I reasoned last time that he wouldn't touch. The 30% was the part that Ken Mantell had owned previously. I didn't think Jarrett would buy into the promotion because 30% means that the Von Erichs still own 70% and that's controlling interest. There was a hitch, though, that I wasn't aware of and that is the 30% allows Jarrett to become the general manager of the company which gives him almost complete control. Percy Pringle, who had previously filled several shoes in the organization, was given notice that he wasn't needed any longer which pretty well tells me that Jarrett has gone ahead with the purchase. I should have more next time.

Meanwhile, the only title that isn't switching hands everytime we turn around is the Junior heavyweight crown which Jeff Jarrett won at the Cotton Bowl. He has been making title defenses both in Memphis and in Texas so that one is safely with someone for the time being.

Booker for the group is a group effort at this point with Skandar Akbar and Eric Embry handling the chores for the most part. There has been talk of sending down Memphis personnel to make sure things go as they planned, but that hasn't come about yet.

PULSE ON PORTLAND

BY GREG ANDERSON

On 9/24, Top Gun (Dave Sierra) was wrestling Al Madril and had an abdominal stretch on him when Buddy Rose came out in his Top Gun garb and attacked Sierra. The heels then began unmasking Sierra and had the mask up above his mouth when Steve Doll ran in for the save. Later that night, Rose, as Top Gun, was working against Scott Peterson. Ref Sandy Barr took a bump and Rose tied Peterson up in the ropes, took a plastic bag out of his trunks and put it over Scott's head. Sierra then ran in and punched Rose silly and the Grappler ran in to slug away on Scott. Doll then followed and attacked Grappler! Madril also entered the ring but Peterson began walloping him! The brawl went on for a bit longer until the faces drove all the baddies out.

On 10/1, it was announced that Madril had successfully gotten a cease and desist order on anymore kids' nights in the area and 10/8 would be the final one. Anyway, in the opening match Top Gun Sierra and Doll faced Top Gun Rose and Madril in a two out of three fall bout. In the first fall, all four ended up in the ring but Doll was thrown out of the ring. As Rose held Sierra, Al came off the ropes for a clothesline attempt, Sierra moved and Al nailed Buddy! Sierra then slugged Madril out of the ring and clotheslined Rose again to get a pinfall as Madril and Doll brawled on the floor. In the second fall, Madril and Doll were fighting outside again and as the ref was distracted by this, Rose loaded up his mask, body slammed Sierra and attempted a diving headbutt off the top rope. Sierra moved and Rose crashed into the mat. Sierra then began unlacing Buddy's mask and had it up to his nose when Rose rolled under the bottom rope. Sierra followed Rose into the crowd, still working on the mask but Rose was able to make it to the dressing room. The Top Guns signed to meet on 10/8 in a lumberjack w/ straps match and if Sierra won, he got to put Rose in a small cage at ringside where he promised to unmask him.

In the next match, Grappler faced CW Bergstrom and wore him down. Then he grabbed the house mic and said he was going to teach Art Barr a lesson (Barr had "placed" a \$2,000 bounty on the hooded heels head for his attack on Art's bad knee on 9/17) by ending Bergstrom's career. He loaded up his mask and climbed up to the top rope Mike Golden sneaked into the ring and as Grappler leaped off, Golden jammed his baseball bat into Grappler's stomach and the heel left the scene doubled over in pain. A bounty match was signed for 10/8 between Grappler and Golden.

On 8/3, Top Gun Sierra pinned the Grappler to win the Northwest title in Longview, WA. (The writer's home town) in a pretty boring match which I attended. Those who feel there are no pure marks left should have been at this show. Anyway, there were maybe 300 fans in attendance for this historical event!

On the 8th, Top Gun Sierra wrestled Bergstrom and Madril ran into the ring and attacked CW, who bumped into Gun. Al tossed CW over the ropes and tossed a fireball at Gun. Gun then grabbed a folding chair and chased Madril away.

On TV, they showed a taped interview with Matt Borne who was returning on the 10/15 card and he had a "doctor" (in full surgical gear at a wrestling arena yet) with him and Borne asked him how bad his wrist was hurt. "it's real bad" said the "doctor" in a monotone voice. Borne then asked him if he could wrestle with his "orthopedic" brace and the doctor said, "That'll be up to you" but said he could if he wanted. It was pretty funny but probably was one of those "you had to be there" scenarios.

In the Grappler-Golden bounty match, Grappler delivered a loaded kick and When Sandy Barr tried to check the boot, Grappler pushed

him down and grabbed Mike's bat from ringside. He choked Golden with the bat and Barr couldn't pry him loose. Finally, other faces ran in for the save.

It looks like Mel Saraceno may have postponed the debut of his FCW until 10/15 as there have been no promos on TV or ads in the newspaper and Owen is running another "extravaganza" on that night. Believe it or not, Tatsumi Fujinami will be here to defend the IWGP World title against Flair as he is not the best choice to wrestle Japan's top star). I believe Fujinami is making a TOUR OF SEVERAL US promotions so this is not really that big a coup for Owen as getting Flair was. Also on the 15th, Borne meets Rose (they had a great feud here in 1981) Sierra faces Madril and Abudda Dein returns. Rex King from FCW debuts on 10/22. Col. DeBeers was "stripped" of the TV title and it was announced that DeBeers was suspended nationwide for his actions against Sgr. Slaughter on the Memphis earnings.

WINDY CITY WRESTLING

In somewhat of a surprise move, promoter Sam DeCero has placed a "gag order" on all his personnel in regards to the kay fabe sheets, Wrestling Forum included. This is especially surprising since they had worked so closely with the sheets in the past and a good part of their following is from the strong support they have received in publications like this. No problem; we'll just continue to get our information the same way we do from other promotions.

The start of all this stems from the UAWF convention in Memphis. It was there that DeCero met with Memphis officials and came to a working agreement with that promotion. Shortly after that, Paul E Dangerously was replaced as booker (in name only) then physically replaced as booker. Reportedly, Lawler and crew did not want to work with Paul E because of that old BS about paying dues. I'm in complete agreement with our author of "Wrestling With a Future" in that if someone comes along who is qualified, it doesn't matter how long they've been in the business, let them do their thing. DeCero told Paul he was being replaced as booker, but he would still have complete control over angles, feuds, and other such decisions. This seemed to be at the level of kindergarten intelligence by trying to hide the fact that Paul was still in charge.

Paul and the Midnight Express dropped the tag titles last weekend in Greyslake, IL to the Terminators before departing for the NWA. Referee Allen Eppenstein was then tripled on by the Express and Paul, juicing in the process. This frees up the Windy City tag belts from the Express who of course are NWA bound.

With Dangerously gone, this leaves Steve Regal as the booker. I've been told several of the plans that are in store for us and I hope they come out a lot better than they sound. Steve Regal, still the singles champ, will be turned heel without an angle. He's just going to start wrestling babyface opponents and breaking the rules. The Tokoyo Bullets are going to be split up. Frank the Tank Melson, a wrestler in the mold of Mighty Wilbur, only with talent, is going to be made a mythical Greek god and teamed with the Mighty Thor. What's going on here?

With the gag order, no one is returning phone calls so we have no idea when the next Amphitheatre show is. We have heard rumors of the promotion folding and them being close to a hundred thousand dollars in debt (if the Amphitheatre has a Ms. Pac Man machine, we can understand why), however DeCero told me (at convention) that three new sponsors had been signed up to help out financially until they get TV. Supposedly a TV deal has been inked, but I've heard that story too many times before. We'll keep you updated as best we can.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

Beginning next issue, the results section will be cut back to one page to make room for more news, columns, etc. If we start getting more results, we will revert to the two page format.

9/30 SPRINGFIELD, IL (WWF) - courtesy of Jim Cook...Curt Hennig pinned Jim Brunzell...Jim Powers over Iron Mike Sharpe...Valentine beat Muraco...Blue Blazer pinned Barry Horowitz...Demolition beat Bulldogs...Rougeaus over Hart Foundation...Hogan pinned Bossman...Jake Roberts pinned Rick Rude...NOTES: Attendance: 9000...Owen's match was worth the price of admission alone...Hogan's match only one that generated any heat...Valentine used shin guard.

10/24 HERSHEY, PA (WWF) - courtesy of Randy Smith...Red Rooster (Terry Taylor) drew with Sam Houston (D)...Barbarian over Boris Zhukov (F)...Bad New Brown defeated Ken Patera (F)...Dingbat over Honky Tonk Man via DQ (D)...Beefcake beat Ron Bass (D)...Hennig over Casey (D)...Hogan pinned Haku (D+)...NOTES: Attendance 2100 (building holds 8000)...Taylor looked like Flair, copying several moves and mannerisms...Hogan did not wear the bonnet...Dingbat smashed HTM's guitar after the match (there goes another \$29.95)...Warlord a no show.

10/21 DETROIT (NWA) - Shepherders over Ron Simmons and ? (C-)...Fantastics over Rip Morgan & Larry Z (D)...Rotundo beat Italian Stallion (C-)...Eddie Gilbert over Kevin Sullivan in a reversed decision (C-)...Midnight Express over Road Warriors by DQ (B-)...Ivan & Nikita beat Russian Assassins (C-)...Sing over Flair by DQ (A-)...NOTES: Attendance 1300...Sullivan pinned Gilbert after using a foreign object but Steiner goofed and showed the object to the ref who then reversed the decision...Sting filled in for Lex Luger who no showed (legit eye injury)...JJ hit Tommy Young for the DQ when Sting had Flair in scorpion.

10/16 PROVIDENCE, RI (WWF) - courtesy of Ron Lemieux...KING OF THE RING TOURNAMENT (4th Annual)...FIRST ROUND...Patera beat Volkoff...DiBiase over Beefcake...Bad News-Hercules DCOR...Savage downed Virgil...Ron Bass beat Barbarian via DQ...Shawn Michaels pinned Danny Davis...Taylor over Janetty...Iron Mike upset Zhukov...SECOND ROUND...Bass pinned Michaels...DiBiase pinned Patera...Taylor beat Iron Mike...Savage gets a bye...THIRD ROUND...Savage pinned Taylor...DiBiase paid off Bass to fake an injury and win...DiBiase beat Savage by COR NOTES: Attendance: 6700... The buyout was entertaining and actually better than any of the matches...Also, Hacksaw Duggan beat Dino Bravo in a flag match somewhere in the middle of the first round...DiBiase, Savage and Virgil were all three going at it in the final match at the end, but Ted rolled back in to beat the count...Virgil was going to clobber Savage with the trophy at the end, but Hercules made the save (a little late - Virgil had to hold the trophy above his head quite a while).

10/28 KANSAS CITY (WWA-AWA) - courtesy of Bruce Grummert...Ric McCord beat Bruce Blackwell...midget match...TC Carter over Russell Sapp...Ray Stevens/Ric McCord defeated Akio Sato/Grim Reaper...Mike George DCOR Wahoo McDaniel...NOTES: Attendance 280...Ton of no shows including Dave Peterson, and Greg Gagne...Ray Stevens has gained a lot of weight...Wahoo juiced at 4:00 mark of a 10 minute brawl...program pushes several for coming in for Thanksgiving show including Iron Sheik, Sgt Slaughter, Kevin Kelly and more.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

Last issue we let you play along with a part of the Jeopardy! game we used at convention. But we didn't supply you with the correct questions. So without further ado, here are the answers with the correct questions. The category is "THE NAME'S THE SAME" and it has to do with people outside the wrestling business who share their name with wrestlers. Please add "Who is" to all the questions coz I'll get tired of typing it. 100 - Member of 1987 World Champs (Greg Gagne); 200 - Politician who likes Rice (Gary Hart); 300 - Frontiersman with a trendy hat (David Crockett); 400 - Country-Western Novelty singer, he did "Ballad of Blue Cyclone (Ray Stevens); 500 - Leader of instrumental group from Nashville, he shares his name with two wrestlers (Danny Davis).

This issue's trivia question comes from a book I received this past week called appropriately enough "The Professional Wrestling Trivia Book" by Robert Myers. The question is "Prior to joining the Fabulous Ones and the Midnight Express, who did Stan Lane team with to capture the Florida State tag championships?" Answer next time.

The book contains 400 multiple choice questions from the past and present along with photographs in paperback format. It's fun and I'm sorry that after compiling some 300 trivia questions for convention that I didn't have the book sooner. The book is available through PUBLISHER MARKETING SERVICES, 11661 San Vicente Blvd, Suite 206, Los Angeles, CA 90047, Attention Ashley at a cost of \$7.95 plus \$2.00 P&H. You may also call 1-800-537-7335. It contains some questions that are pretty elementary, but then it's got some stumbers too. It is suggested reading for anyone who is planning on dethroning Randy Smith as the Trivia Champ next year at convention.

This won't reach many of you in time to make plans, but there is another wrestling convention of sorts going on in New York this coming weekend (Nov 4-6). Appearing will be Sgt. Slaughter, Lou Albano, Bruno Sammartino, Jimmy Snuka, Rocky Johnson, the Samoans, Bob Backlund, the Iron Sheik, and more. There will be autograph sessions and a question and answer session hosted by Bill Apter. There will be live wrestling at the resort on Saturday night with other activities like wrestlers leading exercise classes (give me the one led by Lou not Backlund!). Rates range from \$167-189 based on double occupancy (which is a fancy way of saying that if there's just one of you, double the price). I'm told the weekend will be structured for the most part and the price includes three meals a day. More information is available by calling 1-800-431-3858. The event is sponsored by the Stevensville Country Club and Rapp Enterprises and the resort is located 95 miles northwest of New York City. Anyone attending should send me a report, please. They are "expecting" between 1500-2000 people for the weekend.

I just saw my third installment of "Learning the Ropes" and it seems to get better as they go along. This week's edition didn't have that much wrestling in it, so as much as I hate to say it, that may be part of the problem. By the way, the ring announcer is Grant Cowan and no, he's not eligible for the Worst Announcer of the year when we do the balloting.

Subscription drive update: Still not going anything like I had expect though the word of mouth from the convention is doing wonders for the UAWF. Meanwhile at the Forum, our approximate number of subscribers is at the 220 level. We can't seem to get away from this number. Can anyone tell me why? I'd really appreciate it!

King Haku has gotten himself in a little bit of a legal bind. before his appearance in Baltimore on the Saturday Night's Main Event card, he was presented (served) with a lawsuit that stemmed from his last appearance in that city in June of this year. He was reportedly involved in a bar altercation where he allegedly pushed one man to the floor and bit the nose of another. The suit seeks \$100,000 in actual damages and an addition million dollars in punitive damages. Didn't his mother tell him never to put strange things in his mouth because you never know where they might have been?

There may be parts of this bulletin that are a little hard to read. Some of our equipment still isn't working quite right. We're really trying though. I've found that our factory has the exact same press that we do and there is a lady out there that uses it every day (making her an expert). I've been trying to get in about an hour early every day to be taught some of the finer points of running a press. This issue, though, had to be done via photocopier as I also just found out that presses don't work too well in an unheated garage.

We are really in need of some good reader participation pieces for the Forum. Results, articles, letter, just anything you can put together. I get tired of typing my own opinions and would like to hear from you all more.

The UAWF will be selling copies of the Convention 88 highlights including highlights from the press conference, the entire Ring of Immortals banquet, the TV taping and more. I'll keep you informed as we should begin editing it this next week.

A reminder...I turn on the answering machine when I get behind so please leave a message instead of hanging up. I might be here.

That's it for now. We'll be back in a couple weeks with the year end poll. See ya!

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